U.S.C. 371c), a *sale* of Federal funds by a member bank, whether State or national, to an affiliate of the member bank is subject to the limitations prescribed in that section.

(12 U.S.C. 371c)

§ 250.161 Capital notes and debentures as "capital," "capital stock," or "surplus."

(a) The Board of Governors has been presented with the question whether capital notes or debentures issued by banks, that are subordinated to deposit liabilities, may be considered as part of a bank's *capital stock, capital,* or *surplus,* for purposes of various provisions of the Federal Reserve Act that impose requirements or limitations upon member banks.

(b) A *note* or *debenture* is an evidence of debt, embodying a promise to pay a certain sum of money on a specified date. Such a debt instrument issued by a commercial bank is quite different from its *stock,* which evidences a proprietary or *equity* interest in the assets of the bank. Likewise, the proceeds of a note or debenture that must be repaid on a specified date cannot reasonably be regarded as *surplus funds* of the issuing corporation.

(c) Federal law (12 U.S.C. 51c) expressly provides that the term *capital,* as used in provisions of law relating to the capital of national banks, shall mean ''the amount of unimpaired common stock plus the amount of preferred stock outstanding and unimpaired.'' In addition, when Congress in 1934 deemed it desirable to permit certain notes and debentures—those sold by State banks to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation—to be considered as *capital* or *capital stock* for purposes of membership in the Federal Reserve System, Congress felt it necessary to implement that objective by a specific amendment to section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 321). These plain evidences of Congressional intent compel the conclusion that, for purposes of statutory limitations and requirements, *capital* notes and debentures may not properly be regarded as part of either *capital* or *capital stock.*

(d) Accordingly, under the law, capital notes or debentures do not constitute *capital, capital stock,* or *surplus* for the purposes of provisions of the Federal Reserve Act, including, among others, those that limit member banks with respect to purchases of investment securities (12 U.S.C. 24, 335), investments in bank premises (12 U.S.C. 371d), loans on stock or bond collateral (12 U.S.C. 248(m)), deposits with nonmember banks (12 U.S.C. 463), and bank acceptances (12 U.S.C. 372, 373), as well as provisions that limit the amount of paper of one borrower that may be discounted by a Federal Reserve Bank for any member bank (12 U.S.C. 84, 330, 345).

(12 U.S.C. 24, 84, 248, 321, 330, 335, 345, 371c, 371d, 372, 373, 463)

[33 FR 9866, July 10, 1968, as amended at 61 FR 19806, May 3, 1996]

§ 250.162 Undivided profits as "capital stock and surplus".

(a) The Board of Governors has reexamined the question whether a member bank's undivided profits may be considered as part of its *capital stock and surplus,* as that or a similar term is used in provisions of the Federal Reserve Act that limit member banks with respect to the following: Purchases of investment securities (12 U.S.C. 335), loans on stock or bond collateral (12 U.S.C. 248(m)), deposits with nonmember banks (12 U.S.C. 463), bank acceptances (12 U.S.C. 372, 373), investments in and by Edge and Agreement corporations (12 U.S.C. 601, 615, 618), and the amount of paper of one borrower that may be discounted or accepted as collateral for an advance by a Federal Reserve Bank (12 U.S.C. 330, 345, 347).

(b) Upon such reexamination the Board concludes that its negative view expressed in 1964 is unnecessarily restrictive in the light of the Congressional purpose in establishing limitations on bank activities in terms of a bank's capital structure. Accordingly, the Board has decided that, for the purposes of the limitations set forth above, undivided profits may be included as part of *capital stock and surplus.*

(c) As used herein, the term *undivided profits* includes paid-in or earned profits (unearned income must be deducted); reserves for loan losses or bad debts, less the amount of tax which would become payable with respect to

the tax-free portion of the reserve if such portion were transferred from the reserve; valuation reserves for securities; and reserves for contingencies. It does not include reserves for dividends declared or reserves for taxes, interest and expenses.

(Interprets and applies 12 U.S.C. 24, 84, 330, 335, 345, 347, 371c, 372, 373, 464, 601, 615, 618)

[36 FR 5673, Mar. 26, 1971, as amended at 61 FR 19806, May 3, 1996]

§ 250.163 Inapplicability of amount limitations to "ineligible acceptances."

(a) Since 1923, the Board has been of the view that ''the acceptance power of State member banks is not necessarily confined to the provisions of section 13 (of the Federal Reserve Act), inasmuch as the laws of many States confer broader acceptance powers upon their State banks, and certain State member banks may, therefore, legally make acceptances of kinds which are not eligible for rediscount, but which may be eligible for purchase by Federal reserve banks under section 14.'' 1923 FR bulletin 316, 317.

(b) In 1963, the Comptroller of the Currency ruled that ''[n]ational banks are not limited in the character of acceptances which they may make in financing credit transactions, and bankers' acceptances may be used for such purpose, since the making of acceptances is an essential part of banking authorized by 12 U.S.C. 24.'' *Comptroller's manual* 7.7420. Therefore, national banks are authorized by the Comptroller to make acceptances under 12 U.S.C. 24, although the acceptances are not the type described in section 13 of the Federal Reserve Act.

(c) A review of the legislative history surrounding the enactment of the acceptance provisions of section 13, reveals that Congress believed in 1913, that it was granting to national banks a power which they would not otherwise possess and had not previously possessed. See remarks of Congressmen Phelan, Helvering, Saunders, and Glass, 51 *Cong. Rec.* 4676, 4798, 4885, and 5064 (September 10, 12, 13, and 17 of 1913). Nevertheless, the courts have long recognized the evolutionary nature of banking and of the scope of the ''incidental powers'' clause of 12 U.S.C. 24. See *Merchants Bank* v. *State Bank*, 77 U.S. 604 (1870) (upholding the power of a national bank to certify a check under the ''incidental powers'' clause of 12 U.S.C. 24).

(d) It now appears that, based on the Board's 1923 ruling, and the Comptroller's 1963 ruling, both State member banks and national banks may make acceptances which are not of the type described in section 13 of the Federal Reserve Act. Yet, this appears to be a development that Congress did not contemplate when it drafted the acceptance provisions of section 13.

(e) The question is presented whether the amount limitations of section 13 should apply to acceptances made by a member bank that are not of the type described in section 13. (The amount limitations are of two kinds:

(1) A limitation on the amount that may be accepted for any one customer, and

(2) A limitation on the aggregate amount of acceptances that a member bank may make.)FP≤In interpreting any Federal statutory provision, the primary guide is the intent of Congress, yet, as noted earlier, Congress did not contemplate in 1913, the development of so-called ''ineligible acceptances.'' (Although there is some indication that Congress did contemplate State member banks' making acceptances of a type not described in section 13 [remarks of Congressman Glass, 51 *Cong. Rec.* 5064], the primary focus of congressional attention was on the acceptance powers of national banks.) In the absence of an indication of congressional intent, we are left to reach an interpretation that is in harmony with the language of the statutory provisions and with the purposes of the Federal Reserve Act.

(f) Section 13 authorizes acceptances of two types. The seventh paragraph of section 13 (12 U.S.C. 372) authorizes certain acceptances that arise out of specific transactions in goods. (These acceptances are sometimes referred to as ''commercial acceptances.'') The 12th paragraph of section 13 authorizes member banks to make acceptances ''for the purpose of furnishing dollar exchange as required by the usages of trade'' in foreign transactions. (Such acceptances are referred to as ''dollar